

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 17 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. ALL PAPERS AND PRESS SERVICES REPORT PP QUIET WITH LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY, THOUGH FANK RETAKES KOMPONG KANTOUT, TOWN 14 MI SW OF PP, ASSISTED BY KAF T-28 AIR STRIKES. TWO US RECON PLANES PASS OVER AS FANK DIGS DEFENSIVE POSITIONS BOTH IN AND AROUND PP. SCHANBERG (NYT) VISITS PP DEFENSIVE PERIMETER, FINDS MOSTLY CALM THOUGH FEW SMALL SKIRMISHES. UPI (WP) BELIEVES KI MAY BE REGROUPING INTO LARGER UNITS NOW THAT INTENSIVE-BOMBING THREAT OVER, AND QUOTES IN TAM THAT FANK MUST NOW REVISE TACTICS AND LEARN USE FIREPOWER. SEIDEN (SUN) FINDS PP TENSELY EXPECTANT AND FANK SOLDIERS JUMPY. SOUTHERLAND (CSM) SAYS PP PONDERES WHAT NEXT. MANY THEORIES CURRENT ON PROBABLE FUTURE ACTIVITY, BUT KI HAVE EVERYONE GUESSING. APPEARS NO ONE REALLY CONTROLS FANK, AND PRICE OF RICE BOTHERS PP MORE THAN WAR.

2. LONDON TIMES (REUTER) REPORTS SIR ROBERT THOMPSON, AFTER MONTH-LONG REVIEW OF INDOCHINA SITUATION, BELIEVES NVN HAS RUN OUT OF STEAM IN CAMBODIA AND THAT PP CAN BE HELD INTO NEXT YEAR.

3. DOD LETTER TO SASC OUTLINES RESTRICTIONS ON POSSIBLE GVN USE OF US-SUPPLIED MILITARY AID FOR OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA. LAW FORBIDS GVN USE ASSISTANCE SUPPLIED WITH FY 71 FUNDS OR LATER TO INTERVENE IN CAMBODIA OR LAOS; ANY ITEMS SO USED WOULD NOT BE REPLACED, THOUGH BORDER OPERATIONS IN SELF-DEFENSE PERMITTED. GVN RECENTLY SO INFORMED. CORDDRY (SUN) SEES US, IN EFFECT, CAUTIONING GVN NOT SEND TROOPS TO AID GKR. JOHNSON (S-N, AUG. 16) BELIEVES DOD LAWYERS HAVE UNCOVERED LEGAL LOOPHOLE SINCE GVN COULD TAKE ACTION ON OWN INITIATIVE AND CLAIM ONLY PRE-FY 71 EQUIPMENT USED. MARDER (WP) CITES CONTRADICTORY REPORTS OF GVN SENDING ETHNIC KHMER TROOPS TO AID GKR AND SEES AS MOOT QUESTION WHETHER UNCLASSIFIED

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GVN CAN USE AID TO ASSIST GKR; QUOTES SEN. HUGHES TO EFFECT ANY INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA SHOULD STOP US AID TO GVN. GWERTZMAN (NYT) BELIEVES SELF-DEFENCE RIGHT COULD PROVIDE PRETEXT FOR GVN ACTION IN CAMBODIA.

4. IN FRONT-PAGE STORY, KIRK (CHITRIB) REPORTS CAMBODIANS STILL DEVOTED TO SIHANOUK, WHILE MANY HOLD LON NOL RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENT SUFFERING, AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE COMPROMISE TO RETURN EXILED PRINCE. PROMINENT PP OPPOSITION POLITICIAN BELIEVES US WILL HAVE TO DISCARD LON NOL, BUT SEES RETURNED SIHANOUK AS KR PAWN. LEWIS (NYT) QUOTES SIHANOUK AIDE ON NO COMPROMISE WITH LON NOL. REUTER REPORTS

SIHANOUK'S RETURN TO PEKING FROM PYONGYANG VIA
TIENTSIN; HE SAYS PATRIOTIC FORCES WOULD LIBERATE
PP AT ANY COST AND HE IS WILLING RETIRE FROM POLITICS
IF KR TAKE OVER CAMBODIA. SIHANOUK SPOKESMAN IN
PARIS NOW CONTRADICTS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT GKR
MEMBERS WOULD BE PERMITTED GO INTO EXILE WITH INSURGENT
VICTORY; NOW SAYS KI WILL CAPTURE LON NOL AND CRONIES
AND TRY FOR WAR CRIMES (REUTER SUN, WP).

5. GETLER (WP) REPORTS HUMAN ERROR PROBABLY CAUSED
TRAGIC B-52 BOMBING THAT DESTROYED NEAK LUONG AND
KILLED 137. CREW MEMBER MIGHT HAVE FAILED THROW
SWITCH TO ACTUATE PART OF BOMBING SYSTEM. AF CONTINUES
INVESTIGATION.

6. MARKHAM (NYT) DESCRIBES VN VILLAGE OF AN THUAN
ON CAMBODIAN BORDER OPPOSITE SVAY RIENG WHERE CROSS-
BORDER TRAFFIC NOW RESTRICTED BUT KHMER REFUGEES
SNEAK IN TO ESCAPE KR.

7. PEAGMAN (CSM) REPORTS THAT DESPITE OPTIMISM
ON PROSPECT NEW LAOS COALITION GOVT, PL SHOWS CONCERN
FOR CONTINUED US ACTIVITY AND SAYS US STILL HAS
CIA, SPECIAL FORCES AND THAI MERCENARIES. ADDITIONALLY,
ILLNESS OF PL SPECIAL ENVOY TO VIENTIANE MAY AFFECT
COURSE OF COALITION FORMATION.

8. GVN STATES VC/NVA AMBUSH OF TRAIN ON CENTRAL
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COAST KILLS 2 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDS 19. FIGHTING
CONTINUES W. OF KONTUM (WP, REUTER).

9. IN PARIS, VC CHARGES GVN SENDS 10,000 TROOPS
DISGUISED AS VOLUNTEERS INTO CAMBODIA TO BOLSTER
GKR. GVN COUNTERCHARGES THAT VC SENT THOUSANDS
OF TROOPS AND POLITICAL AGENTS INTO CAMBODIA AND
LAOS (CHITRIB, UPI). ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS
DEADLOCK IN VC-GVN PARIS TALKS (NYDN, UPI).

10. SIR ROBERT THOMPSON ADVISES SVN DROP 100,000
MEN FROM MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVICES TO REDUCE COSTS
AND BOOST ECONOMY. GVN ANNOUNCES PLAN TO DEMOBILIZE
47,000 BY END 1973 (CSM).

11. DOD ANNOUNCES RECON FLIGHTS OVER CAMBODIA.
MAY INVOLVE SR-71 HIGH-ALTITUDE SPY PLANE (SUN,
AP).

KOREA

12. BINDER (NYT) REPORTS US CONCERNED THAT ROK

INTELLIGENCE AGENTS HERE HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY ENGAGING IN PROGRAM OF HARASSMENT AND SERIOUS INTIMIDATION AGAINST US-RESIDENT KOREANS. DOS OFFICIALS SAY 3 ORAL REPRESENTATIONS WERE MADE AT ROK EMBASSY IN APRIL AND MAY, ONE IN JUNE AND REPEATED IN JULY. IN ADDITION, FBI AND LOCAL POLICE AGENCIES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO INVESTIGATE KCIA OPERATIONS IN US. CLOSE TO 150,000 S. KOREANS LIVING IN US.

13. NYT REPORT SAYS CHIEF OF ROK INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN US CALLS HIMSELF SANG HO LEE, BUT IN REALITY, ACCORDING KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, IS DONG WON YANG, FORMER OFFICER IN SK MARINES WHO MASTER-MINDED ABDUCTION OF 17 SK DISSIDENTS FROM W. GERMANY IN 1967. COINCIDENCE OR NOT, SK AMBASSADOR TO FRG AT TIME OF MASS KIDNAPPING, DUK SHIN CHOI, WAS IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND. IN ADDITION, DIRECTOR OF KCIA IN 1967, KIM HYUNG WOOK, IS DESCRIBED BY INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS AS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEING IN NY VICINITY, ALTHOUGH INS HAS NO RECORD IN WASHINGTON OF HIS ENTRY.

CHINA

14. BURNS (CSM), IN PEKING, REPORTS CONTINUING "GREAT GUESSING GAME" AS TO WHEN CCP WILL CONVENE 10TH NATIONAL CONGRESS, "PROVIDING ITSELF WITH THE PLATFORM TO DEFAME" LIN, "FILL THE EMBARRASSMENT OF VACANCIES THAT HAVE OPENED IN ITS UPPER COUNCILS, AND TACKLE THE SENSITIVE PROBLEM" OF MAO'S SUCCESSION.

15. FROM HONG KONG, ISAACS (SUN) FINDS IT SIGNIFICANT THAT CHINESE RADICALS' STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE FOOTHOLD IN COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP IS REAPPEARING AT TIME WHEN PRC LEADERS ARE IN LAST STAGES OF PREPARING NEW CONSTITUTION AND CHOOSING NEW POLITBURO FOR PARTY. CITES RADICALS' RECENT SERIES OF PUBLISHED POLEMICS ON UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS AND OBSERVES THAT IF THEY PRESERVE INFLUENCE IN EDUCATION AND CULTURE, THEY COULD CONTINUE TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHINA'S FUTURE.

16. CSM'S GRULIOW, IN MOSCOW, SEES IN BREZHNEV'S RECENT SHARP CRITICISM OF PRC LEADERSHIP, AND HIS CALL FOR ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM, SOVIET PLAN TO OUTFLANK MAO.

17. TAIWAN EXPORTS SURPASSED IMPORTS BY \$353.4 MILLION IN FIRST 7 MONTHS OF 1973, FINANCE MINISTRY

ANNOUNCES (JOC).

AUSTRALIA

18. UPI REPORTS THAT MCDONNELL DOUGLAS HAS OFFERED AUSTRALIA PART IN PRODUCTION OF NEW FIGHTER, F-15 EAGLE. AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION QUOTES FIRM AS SAYING DEAL WOULD BE WORTH MORE THAN \$125.4 MILLION TO AUSSIE AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY OVER NEXT 10 YEARS; HOWEVER, MCDONNELL WANTS DECISION WITHIN 4 MONTHS SO TOOLING-UP PROGRAM CAN BEGIN BY NEXT UNCLASSIFIED

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YEAR (WP, NYDN).

ASEAN

19. ASEAN, DISCUSSING IN KL PLANS FOR UNITED STAND NEXT MONTH AT GATT IN TOKYO, CALLS FOR EXTRA TRADE PREFERENCES TO WORLD'S "LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS." FIVE COUNTRIES SAY THEY DO NOT WISH INCLUSION IN SUCH CATEGORY, BUT URGE WORLD HELP FOR THOSE NATIONS THAT ARE. SOME OBSERVERS SURPRISED THAT NATION LIKE INDONESIA, WITH PER CAPITA INCOME OF ONLY ABOUT \$80 YEARLY, DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF IN MOST NEEDY CATEGORY (CSM).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

20. S-N'S BRADSHER (AUG. 16) IN HONG KONG REPORTS ADMIN LAMENT THAT CONGRESSIONAL BOMBING HALT DESTROYED BARGAINING POWER FOR COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT SOUNDS HOLLOW TO CLOSE OBSERVERS OF CAMBODIAN SCENE. SAYS THERE NEVER SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ANY REALISTIC POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD HAVE SALVAGED AMERICAN HONOR ALONG WITH LON NOL'S. IN ANOTHER OF MANY REPEATED LESSONS THAT AIR POWER HAS ONLY LIMITED INFLUENCE ON OVER-ALL DEVELOPMENT OF OLD-FASHIONED SMALL UNIT GROUND WAR, CAMBODIAN SITUATION HAD BEEN STEADILY DETERIORATING YEARS BEFORE CONGRESS BEGAN APPLYING BRAKES. LON NOL OPPONENTS, THEREFORE, HAD LITTLE INCENTIVE TO BARGAIN EVEN BEFORE BOMBING HALT VOTED. DESPITE CONTINUING US MILITARY SUPPLIES, THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS ATTENDING GKR'S CONTINUING FIGHTING WITHOUT US AIR POWER. WATER AND LAND TRANSPORTATION INTO PP OPENED BY BOMBING MIGHT NOW BE CLOSED; CITES SENIOR US OFFICIAL IN PP AS SAYING CITY'S AIRPORT IS LOGISTICAL NIGHTMARE, ADDING IT IS PHYSICALLY INCAPABLE OF HANDLING ENOUGH US CARGO PLANES TO KEEP CITY'S POPULATION FED AND FANK FIGHTING FOR LONG.

21. GLOBE (AUG. 16) SUMS UP COST OF US MILITARY

INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA IN TERMS OF BOMBS DROPPED,
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LIVES LOST, FUNDS EXPENDED, AND MAINTAINS THAT CESSATION
OF BOMBING MARKS END OF "ULTIMATE DISGRACE" IN USE
OF US MILITARY POWER. CONTENDING THAT PRES. IGNORED
SOUND GUAM DOCTRINE IN CAMBODIA, SAYS INDOCHINA
ADVENTURE MUST NEVER BE REPEATED. ASSERTS THAT
COMPLETION OF STRONG WAR POWERS BILL SHOULD BE AT
TOP OF AGENDA WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS.

22. RICHARD WILSON (S-N AUG. 16) FINDS LITTLE REASSURANCE
IN PROSPECT OF FUTURE CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTION
IN NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY. MAINTAINS THAT CONGRESS
IS HEADING IN THAT DIRECTION AND THERE IS SCARCELY
AREA WHERE PRES. MAY NOW EXPECT EXERCISE UNHINDERED
HIS CONSTITUTIONAL POWER TO CONDUCT FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

23. IN LETTER TO S-N (AUG. 16), PHIL EMBASSY CHARGE
CRITICIZES S-N EDITORIAL FOR CONDEMNING IN ADVANCE
RECENT PHIL REFERENDUM. SAYS EDIT DID SO SIMPLY
ON GROUND THAT FULL AND FREE DISCUSSION OF ISSUES
NOT POSSIBLE IN ABSENCE UNTRAMMELED MASS MEDIA
OF COMMUNICATION. CONTENDS FULL, FREE DISCUSSION
POSSIBLE AND HAS BEEN GOING ON IN WAY TRADITIONAL
TO PHILS, I.E., IN BARRIOS, IN PROVINCES, IN MANILA
COFFEE SHOPS -- IN GROUPS SMALL ENOUGH TO ALLOW
FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS FACE TO FACE.

24. S-N'S BILLINGTON (AUG. 16) REPORTS ON COMMENTS
EXPRESSED ON KIM DAE JUNG KIDNAPPING AT KOREAN EMBASSY
CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL DAY. ROK AMBASSADOR HAD
LITTLE TO SAY BEYOND ASSURANCE INCIDENT BEING LOOKED
INTO. ONE KOREAN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAYS NO CHARGES
PREVIOUSLY LEVELED AGAINST KIM DESPITE FACT HE HAS
BEEN DESCRIBED AS "WANTED MAN"; NEITHER HAS KIM
CHARGED, SINCE ARRIVAL IN SEOUL, THAT KCIA HAD KIDNAPPED
HIM. MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTS, IT'S "SAD TO
SEE IT HAPPEN, FOR WHATEVER REASON," ADDING THAT
WITHIN LIMITATIONS, ROK HAS GIVEN KOREAN PEOPLE
QUITE AMOUNT OF FREEDOM. GOM AMBASSADOR ALSO CREDITS
PARK FOR GOOD WORKS IN ECON FIELD AND RECALLS HIS
REMARK THAT NATIONAL SECURITY HAS TO COME FIRST.
BILLINGTON NOTES THAT SEC. ROGERS WAS CRITICIZED
IN US PRESS FOR NOT APPEARING TO TAKE ANY PUBLIC
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STAND AGAINST PARK "REPRESSION," AND CITES DOS OFFICER
AT CELEBRATION AS INTERPRETING US POSITION AS WAIT-
AND-SEE STANCE WHICH LEAVES GOJ TO DEAL WITH KIM
KIDNAPPING. SOURCE SAYS "WHATEVER WE SAY PUBLICLY,

THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE OF OUR INTEREST
IN KIM'S FREEDOM, FROM A HUMANITARIAN POINT OF VIEW;
AND HE HAS AN APPOINTMENT AT HARVARD THIS FALL,
TOO."

25.IN EDIT ENTITLED,"KOREAN 'PLUMBERS,'" NYT
NOTES HYPOTHESES ON KIM DAE JUNG ABDUCTION AND VIEWS
AS "MORE PLAUSIBLE" BELIEF HELD BY SOME JAPANESE
AND US OFFICIALS THAT KIDNAPPING WAS DUBIOUS EXPLOIT
OF KCIA, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN ENGAGED IN WORLDWIDE
EFFORT TO SILENCE KOREAN OPPOSITION. NOTES ROK
HAS OFFICIALLY DISCLAIMED INVOLVEMENT, BUT OBSERVES
THAT IN GRAY OPERATIONS OF SUPPRESSING POLITICAL
DISSIDENCE, OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MAY NOT
ALWAYS BE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT UNDERCOVER OPERATIVES
ARE UP TO. DECLARES THAT WHOEVER COMMITTED DEED,
SUCCEEDED IN PROVOKING BITTERNESS BETWEEN SK AND
JAPAN AND IN CASTING PARK'S REGIME IN BAD LIGHT
WHEN SEOUL IS ALREADY FACING EROSION OF INTERNATIONAL
STATURE. FORTUNATELY, KIM IS SAFE AND AT LIBERTY.
ROGERS

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